

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7407
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 1154

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA
SUBJECT: ONTARIO-QUEBEC LABOR DISPUTE HEATS UP

1. A SIMMERING DISPUTE BETWEEN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF ONTARIO RESIDENTS IN THE QUEBEC CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS HEATED UP TO THE POINT WHERE THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT HAS THREATENED RETALIATION IN KIND.

2. AT ISSUE IS A QUEBEC POLICY, DUE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 1, WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY PREVENT ONTARIO RESIDENTS FROM WORKING ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN QUEBEC. INTER-PROVINCIAL MOVEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IS TRADITIONAL; ONTARIO ESTIMATES ABOUT 1000 ONTARIANS WORKING ON QUEBEC PROJECTS AND 5000 QUEBECKERS IN ONTARIO (QUEBEC'S ESTIMATE IS 2000).

3. THE ONTARIO PREMIER HAS ASKED PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO LAY THE CASE BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA FOR A DETERMINATION AS TO THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE QUEBEC POLICY. SHOULD THE COURT RULE IN FAVOR OF QUEBEC (OR SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FAIL TO BRING THE CASE TO COURT), THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO IMPOSE SIMILAR RESIDENCE

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RESTRICTIONS ON QUEBEC WORKERS IN ONTARIO; A BILL AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNMENT TO DO SO HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE BY THE MINISTER OF LABOR. DIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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